NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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A Message from the Director

As I reflect on Library activities during the past twelve months, I cannot help but recognize the valuable interest, cooperation, and support by the Nation's medical libraries and the biomedical community. I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation for this and at the same time to extend Holiday Greetings.

Considered in the context of the long history of the National Library of Medicine, 1967 will, I am convinced, be regarded as particularly significant. The Library's services continued to grow, and several major new programs were undertaken to increase NLM's capability and responsiveness in coping with the expanding volume of biomedical information and improving the mechanism for disseminating this information.

A Toxicology Information Program was instituted in January, in accordance with recommendations by the President's Science Advisory Committee and a directive of President Johnson.

A new Research and Development Program in biomedical communications was established in April to develop automated document and information handling networks and to utilize other modern technology to improve the flow of biomedical information.

With the organizational transfer in July of the National Medical Audiovisual Center to NLM, the two major elements of the Federal Government concerned with biomedical communications were merged. The reorganization resulted from a growing concern about the time lag in information exchange which has impeded application of medical knowledge to health care. For the first time, a central resource has been established to focus on biomedical information in all forms -- audiovisuals as well as traditional print materials.

The Extramural Programs, under the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965, made great strides toward strengthening the Nation's public and private health science libraries. More than $6,000,000 was awarded in the first full fiscal year of operation under the Act, including a $104,872 grant to the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine (of the Harvard Medical School and the Boston Medical Society), the first regional medical library grant from NLM. No funds for much-needed medical library construction have as yet been released, and this represents a source of great disappointment to me.

(Please turn page)

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(Message from Director, Cont'd)

After more than three years of successful operation a new generation of computer equipment is being planned to further automate NLM services. In 1967, under a systems study contract, specifications were developed to enhance and extend the effectiveness of MEDLARS.

1967 marked the beginning of a coordinated automation effort among the three national research libraries -- NLM, the Library of Congress, and the National Agricultural Library. This, I am confident, will be greeted by all librarians as a much-needed development in our Nation.

The President appointed five new members to the Library's Board of Regents during 1967. At the June meeting, Barnes Woodhall, M.D., was elected Chairman, succeeding William N. Hubbard, Jr., M.D., who retired. It is appropriate, as 1967 draws to a close, to acknowledge and convey our gratitude to the Regents for their many hours of service and for their wise counsel.

On behalf of the Library staff, I offer best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season and a rewarding New Year.

Martin M. Cummings, M.D.

NLM PROGRAM REPORT No. 7 - Exchange Program

by Galina V. Zarechnak, Ph.D.,
Coordinator for Exchange

The exchange of publications with other libraries, learned societies, and educational institutions throughout the world is a long-established activity of the NLM acquisitions program. John Shaw Billings' trips abroad for both purchase and initiation of exchange arrangements even included a journey in 1881 to Russia, where his visit to the Military Medical Institute in St. Petersburg alone resulted ultimately in a long and valuable exchange partnership with this Library.

The NLM exchange program has received strong impetus from two new factors in recent years. The first of these is the broadened scope of collecting policy, which now

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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE BOARD OF REGENTS *(from left) Frederick H. Wagman, Ph.D., 1967-71; Walsh McDermott, M.D., 1964-68; Bruno W. Augenstein, 1967-71; Major General S.B. Hayes; Lt. General R. L. Bohannon; Stewart G. Wolf, Jr., M.D., 1965-69; Barnes Woodhall, M.D., 1964-68, Chairman 1967-68; Quincy L. Mumford, L.L.D., Librarian of Congress; Vice Admiral Robert B. Brown; William B. Bean, M.D., 1957-61, 1965-69, Chairman 1960-61; Alfred R. Zipf, 1966-70; Robert H. Ebert, M.D., Ph.D., 1967-71; Morris Tager, M.D., 1964-68; and Kathryn M. Smith, D.Ed., 1966-70.*

Current Catalog to Broaden Coverage

The 1968 *NLM Current Catalog* will feature a new section - citations to technical reports. (The Library defines as technical reports those papers which report on research in progress, usually being performed under contract with a U. S. Government agency. They constitute the earliest presentation of potentially important findings which may later appear in full in the primary literature.) Technical reports are cataloged experimentally by NLM, according to rules adapted from the "Standard for Descriptive Cataloging" issued in October 1966 by the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information of the Federal Council for Science and Technology.

Subscription rates for the 1968 *NLM Current Catalog* are: (A) 26 biweekly issues, $12 ($16 foreign); (B) quarterly issues only, including the two-volume case-bound annual cumulation, $30 ($37.50 foreign); and (C) two-volume annual cumulation only, $14.15. It may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

(Exchange Program, from Page 2)

includes far more extensive coverage of certain preclinical, behavioral, veterinary, and other health-related sciences. Thus, we now number among our exchange partners not only medical, but also biological, agricultural, and pedagogical institutions, such as the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which publishes extensively in veterinary and agricultural science, and the Royal Veterinary College Library in Stockholm, Sweden.

The second factor is the increase in the number of publications available to NLM for exchange purposes. The three stalwarts -- *Bibliography of Medical Reviews*, *Public Health Reports*, and, most popular and most desirable, *Index Medicus* -- have been joined by no less than seven new recurring bibliographies. These are the *NLM Current Catalog*, *Artificial Kidney Bibliography*, *Bibliography of the History of Medicine*, *Cerebrovascular Bibliography*, *Index to Dental Literature*, *Index to Nursing Literature*, and *Fibrinolysis, Thrombolysis, and Blood Clotting*, all MEDLARS products, and all except the first printed and distributed by cooperating institutions.

The Library at present has active exchange agreements in 86 countries with 1,168 exchange partners -- 192 in the United States and Canada, 976 abroad. The geographical distribution of exchange partners is as follows:

Area	No. Partners	No. Countries
Asia	223	14
Africa	30	14
Australia, etc.	28	7
Europe	504	26
South and Central America	191	23
	976	84

Each year, NLM receives on exchange approximately 2,000 regularly published serial titles, 1500 monographs, and 4500 theses, in a total of 45 languages. Thus, the exchange program is a major means of implementing the Library's goal of obtaining and making available to the Nation's professional biomedical community the health-related literature from all countries.

Medical Reference Works Just Published

The Library shares the Medical Library Association's pride in the publication of *Medical Reference Works, 1679-1966: A Selected Bibliography* (Chicago, Medical Library Association, 1967), edited by two NLM staff members -- Dr. John B. Blake, Chief, History of Medicine Division, and Charles Roos, Head of RSD's Reference Section. The 343-page volume lists over 2,700 titles, with asterisks marking basic references especially useful to the smaller medical library. *Medical Reference Works* constitutes a revision of "A Bibliography of the Reference Works and Histories in Medicine and the Allied Sciences," published in the MLA's *Handbook of Medical Library Practice* (2d ed., 1956). The new bibliography may be ordered at $10 a copy from the Medical Library Association, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611.